



Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Seven members of Security Council to leave for mission to Burundi and Rwanda tomorrow; to consult with political leaders and other parties on political and security developments as well as return of refugees and reconstruction.
- + Security Council calls upon Croatian Government and local Serbs to negotiate, without preconditions, for a negotiated settlement; says UNPROFOR's presence in Croatia vital for regional peace and security.
- + Security Council extends presence of UNMOT until 6 March; says continued observance of cease-fire Agreement vital; urges Tajik parties to reaffirm their commitment to resolving conflict politically.
- + Secretary-General reports cost of expanding UNAVEM II at \$383 million for twelve months; will recommend costs be considered an expense of Organization under Article 17 of Charter and assessments on Member States to be credited to UNAVEM's Special Account.
- + Security Council Committee acts to expedite consideration of applications concerning humanitarian supplies to former Yugoslavia.
- + Speaking at dedication of Shimon Peres Centre for Advancement of Peace, Secretary-General says Universities can foster dialogue, cultural exchange and a truly global society.
- + Under-Secretary-General for Sustainable Development tells Energy Committee renewable sources of energy must be made available to initiate energy transformation in rural areas by year 2000.
- + Commission on Human Rights considers human rights situation in Occupied Territories and right to self-determination; Special Rapporteur says political situation not likely to re-establish human rights there.

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For information media—not an official record

+ UNHCR team flies to North Caucasus to implement three-month assistance programme for 160,000 people displaced by fighting in Chechnya.

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The Security Council has decided to send a mission to Burundi and Rwanda. In a note dated 6 February, Council President Legwaila Joseph Legwaila (Botswana) said the mission, which will leave from New York Wednesday, will be made up of Council members from China, the Czech Republic, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria and the United States.

While in Burundi, members of the mission will hold talks with Special Representative Ahmedou Ould Abdallah on political and security developments in the country and seek additional ways in which the United Nations can underpin his efforts. They will also meet with the President, leaders of the Security forces and the opposition, as well as United Nations agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the Organization of African Unity. The mission will convey the Council's serious concerns over recent political developments in Burundi. It is also expected to stress the strong support of the Council for the Convention of Government of 10 September 1994; for the process of national reconciliation and the Council's strong rejection of all attempts to destabilize the region.

The mission will hold consultations in Rwanda with the Government regarding national reconciliation and reconstruction and the return of refugees. It will also meet with Special Representative Shahryar M. Khan, United Nations agencies, United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) personnel and members of the diplomatic corps and non-governmental organizations in Kigali.

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The Security Council today called upon the Government of Croatia and the local Serb authorities in the United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia to urgently begin negotiating, without preconditions, towards a negotiated settlement. The Council said such a settlement should ensure full respect for the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and guarantee the rights of all communities, irrespective of whether they constituted a majority or a minority in a particular area.

In a statement by its President, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila (Botswana), the Council also reaffirmed its view that the presence of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia was vitally important for regional peace and security. The Council expressed its desire that discussions over the weeks ahead would lead the Croatian Government to re-examine its position taken on 12 January in relation to the UNPROFOR's continuing role in Croatia.

The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to the search for an overall negotiated settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia which ensured the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States there, within their internationally recognized borders. It stressed the importance it attached to

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the mutual recognition of that sovereignty and those borders. The Council strongly supported the recent efforts of representatives of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States aimed at achieving a political settlement in Croatia.

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The Security Council has extended the presence of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for another month, until 6 March. In a letter dated 6 February, Council President Legwaila Joseph Legwaila (Botswana) said the Council endorsed the recommendation by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali contained in his report.

Reaffirming its resolution 968 (1994), the Council said continuation and effective observance of the cease-fire Agreement of 17 September 1994 was vital. It urged the parties in Tajikistan to reconfirm through concrete steps, their commitment to resolve the conflict only through political means, and their commitment to national reconciliation and the promotion of democracy.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reports that the cost of expanding the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) has been estimated at \$383.1 million for the initial 12-month period from 9 February. In an addendum to his earlier report of 1 February, the Secretary-General said the estimate provides for 6,771 military contingent personnel, 350 military observers, 260 civilian police monitors, 336 international civilian staff, 343 locally recruited staff and 68 United Nations volunteers.

The Secretary-General said if the Security Council decided to authorize the expansion of the Mission, he would recommend to the General Assembly that the costs be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2 of the United Nations Charter. Assessments to be levied on Member States would be credited to the Special Account for UNAVEM.

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The Security Council Committee has decided to put immediately in place, as a first step, a number of measures aiming at expediting the consideration of applications concerning humanitarian assistance to the former Yugoslavia. The decision was made following a request made by the Council in its resolution 970 (1995) related to the streamlining of its rules and procedures.

In a statement on 6 February, by its Chairman Emilio J. Cardenas (Argentina), the Committee said it had decided that applications from the international humanitarian agencies would be processed by the secretariat on a top priority basis. Those agencies include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Committee further decided to

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extend the same approach to applications from States, submitted on behalf of non-governmental humanitarian organizations, or concerning the personal belongings of individuals.

It was also decided that requests from the international humanitarian agencies for the transshipment of humanitarian items through the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by land should be considered under its expedited no-objection procedure, rather than at a formal meeting of the Committee. The Committee remains seized of the matter and intends to keep States, humanitarian agencies and organizations informed of its further decisions.

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The true worth of Universities was to foster dialogue, cultural exchange and a truly global society, and to transmit to young generations tolerance, mutual respect, and a dedication to truth, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Monday. The Secretary-General was addressing the dedication dinner in New York, of the University of Haifa Shimon Peres Centre for the Advancement of Peace, where he received the Doctorate honoris causa.

In the midst of difficult times, Universities remained places of refuge and dialogue, the Secretary-General continued. In medieval Universities, philosophers and scientists, Moslem, Christian and Jewish, could engage in open debate without fear of the turmoils in the outside world. Today, when the challenges to peace in the Middle East loomed large, the University of Haifa was a space where Moslems, Christians and Jews could feel at home. It embodied a tradition of mutual respect and a search for common ground.

The Secretary-General said that what the University of Haifa had tried to do within the walls of academia, visionary men and women had tried to apply in the more prosaic world of politics. Shimon Peres was a man of peace and it was appropriate his lifetime commitment to peace and scholarship should be celebrated by naming the Centre for the Advancement of Peace after him.

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Alternative and renewable sources of energy had to be made available in order to initiate an energy transformation in rural areas by the year 2000, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development was told yesterday. Nithin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, told the Committee that the world could not be described as sustainable if the energy base of the rural economies of developing countries remained dependent on biomass and the use of traditional technologies. The Committee was beginning its two-week special session in New York.

Mr. Desai said that in many ways the Committee's work brought together the scarcity, development and environment dimensions of a problem affecting up to 3 billion people. Its views would play an important part in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Committee has been asked by

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the Economic and Social Council to advise the Commission on questions relating to energy for rural development and make recommendations on developing countries' energy resources.

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A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operations team flew from Geneva to the North Caucasus yesterday to implement a three-month assistance programme for some 160,000 people displaced by fighting in Chechnya. The 14-member team, from UNHCR's Emergency Preparedness and Response Section, includes specialists in logistics, transport, storage, field work, protection, communications, social services and administration.

UNHCR staff first arrived in the region on 11 January at the request of the Russian Federation and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to assess the needs of tens of thousands of civilians fleeing the fighting in Chechnya. The North Caucasus operation is part of a \$23.6 million, three-month inter-agency programme announced 1 February.

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The Special Rapporteur on human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, told the Commission on Human Rights he was sorry that conclusions in his report on the situation there had been taken as a general condemnation of multilateral efforts, and in particular, as an attack on the work of the Commission. René Felber said that the human rights situation in the occupied territories had not sufficiently improved, and there was a need to act very quickly. However, the political situation was not likely to achieve the Commission's objective of re-establishing human rights in the territories.

During its debate on violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories and on the right to self-determination, the Commission, which is meeting in Geneva was also told by the observer for Israel there was a new battle in the Middle East -- a battle for peace. Things had moved between Israel and the Palestinians, despite claims to the contrary and in spite of the manifold difficulties, he said. He stressed that extremist groups, often working under the guise of religion, were trying to destroy the peace process through a planned series of horrors. The enemies of peace had no respect for human rights and posed agonizing dilemmas for Israel and for the Palestinian Authority, he added.

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